

make an answer. I have been told in the press, not in this House, that the word which I substituted, for the word I used, the word "stranger" which I substituted, was just as offensive and insulting as the other. Well, Sir, I do not pretend to be a master of the English language, but I do claim, without I think undue boasting, to have some knowledge of it. When I saw in the press that the word "stranger" which I had applied to Lord Dundonald was offensive and insulting, I must confess that I was surprised, and I proceeded to brush up my literature; I went to the sources. I went to the dictionary as the first source, I went to the best dictionary, the Standard, to find the definition of the word "stranger." Like many other words in the English language, like many other words in the French language, like many other words in the Latin language, and probably in all the languages, this word has more than one signification. Here they are:

Stranger. 1. One not an acquaintance; a person unknown; as, I was accosted by a stranger.

2. One not a member of the household; a visitor; guest; as, children should not talk when strangers are at the table. 3. A person coming from another country or a distant region; a foreigner; also, a person coming from another place, though in the same country; as, he had the air of a stranger; a stranger in a strange land. 4. One unacquainted or unfamiliar with something specified; one not versed or experienced; one mentally or spiritually remote; with to; as, he is a stranger to learning and culture. 5. Law. Any person who is neither a party to a transaction nor privy to it.

The Standard Dictionary quotes General Grant, speaking of his appointment to the Army of the Potomac in the spring of 1864, saying:

I was a stranger to most of the army of the Potomac; I might say to all except the officers of the regular army who have served in the Mexican war.

Very few researches brought to me an abundance of precedents. In the "Story of the Revolution," Henry Cahot Lodge, the author, speaking of a visit by Washington coming from Virginia to Massachusetts, says:

The people were evidently with him. They looked upon him as he rode down the lines and were content. The popular movement had found its leader and the popular instinct recognized him. Yet Washington came to the men of New England a "stranger."

But, I am accustomed to the loyalty of hon. gentlemen on the other side, of which we have had such evidence to-day. Perhaps they will not accept these American writers. Let us come back, then, to British authors, and if there is an opinion which ought to be apposite in a matter of this kind, since I am told that I have insulted my fellow countrymen of the Scottish race, let me quote from Sir Walter Scott. We find in his book, "The Pirate," that, speaking of a Mr. Mertoun, an Englishman who was visiting the Shetland Islands, he says:

No one asked him whence he came, where he was going, what was his purpose in visiting so remote a corner of the empire, or what was likely to be the term of his stay. He arrived a perfect stranger, yet was instantly overpowered by a succession of invitations.

But that is not all. Let us come nearer home. I have here in my hands the Life of Lord Lawrence, by Sir Richard Temple. In one of the chapters, Sir Richard Temple speaks of the difficulties of every new Viceroy sent from England to India. He says:

Usually a new Viceroy and Governor General is, on landing in India, really new in every sense. The European officers, the Native princes, chiefs and people, are strangers to him, as he is personally unknown to them.

Here we are very near home when we are in another portion of the British empire, but let us come to Canada itself. There have been commanding officers of the militia before Lord Dundonald. There was one in 1875. His name was Sir Selby Smith.